

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8-2024**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DISASTER TO EXIST
IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, moderate to major flooding occurred due to heavy snowfall and rainfall starting May 5, 2024, which fell across much of northern and central Montana, with widespread totals greater than two inches, and localized amounts between 5 and 7 inches; and

WHEREAS, soils in many of the areas were still frozen leading to precipitation running off rather than sinking in and causing flooding in both low lying and poor drainage areas as well as some area streams and mainstream rivers; and

WHEREAS, widespread warming following the storm cell contributed to additional rapid snow melt flooding; and

WHEREAS, several counties, cities, and towns have reported emergency costs and extensive damage to critical infrastructure to include roads, bridges, and culverts; and

WHEREAS, Rocky Boy's and Fort Belknap Tribes and Chouteau and Hill counties have enacted emergency or disaster declarations, and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs; and

WHEREAS, the storm caused significant damages to electrical infrastructure owned by the rural cooperatives causing hundreds of customers of Fergus Electric, Sun River Electric, Bear Tooth Electric, Marias Electric, Yellowstone Valley and Hill Electric Cooperatives and Northwestern Energy to lose power, some for up to five days; and

WHEREAS, the immediate restoration of electrical power was essential to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the affected counties and tribes; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned electrical cooperatives have expended considerable amounts of resources and manpower and have taken all possible actions to respond, mitigate, repair and alleviate the situation in an expedient manner; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Coordination Center was activated, and coordinated with local, state, tribal and federal agencies throughout the incident period; and

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary State government services, equipment, and suppliers under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of disaster authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Montana Constitution, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and other applicable laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare under § 10-3-302, MCA, that a disaster exists in the State of Montana

This Order is effective May 24, 2024.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 24th day of May, 2024.



GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State